

# CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

July 1, 1999

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Jerry Robinson, Chairman  
Alex Hildebrand, Secretary  
South Delta Water Agency  
P. O. Box 70392  
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Gentlemen:

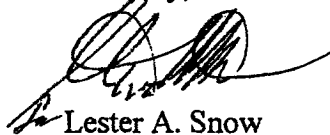
Thank you for your May 5, 1999 letter regarding the South Delta Improvements Investigation. Your letter was included in the materials provided to the Policy Group for its May 13 meeting. Your concerns were considered by the Policy Group before the agencies decided on a proposed course of action for resolving South Delta concerns to be evaluated as part of the Preferred Program Alternative in the Draft Programmatic EIR/EIS.

As you are aware, the Policy Group faces a complex task of balancing water quality, fisheries, water supply and other resource needs in the heavily used San Joaquin River Basin. The CALFED agencies decided to analyze a multiple barrier approach, with a recommendation to implement three barriers expeditiously and to defer a decision on Grant Line Canal until the effectiveness of barriers, dredging, and intake relocation can be evaluated. Given the concerns about fisheries impacts associated with a Grant Line Canal Barrier installation, such a course of action appears to be prudent and consistent with CALFED principles of adaptive management. CALFED remains committed to taking all reasonable actions to identify interim operational impacts of the proposed approach prior to any final decision.

Your input, including your suggestions, concerns, and technical data provided through the South Delta Improvement Team public meetings will continue to be disseminated within CALFED and fully considered in the decision making process.

If you have further questions or comments please feel free to write or call me at (916) 657-2666 or contact Stein Buer at (916) 653-6628.

Sincerely,



Lester A. Snow  
Executive Director

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#### CALFED Agencies

**California**  
The Resources Agency  
Department of Fish and Game  
Department of Water Resources  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Department of Food and Agriculture

**Federal**  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Reclamation  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. Forest Service  
Department of Commerce  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Western Area Power Administration